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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,202	03/19/2001	Frederic Bauchot	FR920000003US1	9602

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IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT.IQOA/BLDG. 040-3
1701 NORTH STREET
ENDICOTT,, NY 13760

EXAMINER

HILLERY, NATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/812,202

Applicant(s)

BAUCHOT ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan Hillery

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing-sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/29/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Change of Address filed on 8/14/03.

2. Claims 1 – 3 are pending in the case. Claims 1 – 3 are independent.

Priority

3. Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: lack of clarity. It is suggested that claim 3 be amended as follows:

a. 3. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when

~~executed, performed, adapted for carrying out the method of claim 1.~~

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) is a single means claim, i.e., where a means

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recitation does not appear in combination with another recited element of means, is subject to an undue breadth rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In re Hyatt, 708 F.2d 712, 714-715, 218 USPQ 195, 197 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (A single means claim which covered every conceivable means for achieving the stated purpose was held nonenabling for the scope of the claim because the specification disclosed at most only those means known to the inventor.). When claims depend on a recited property, a fact situation comparable to Hyatt is possible, where the claim covers every conceivable structure (means) for achieving the stated property (result) while the specification discloses at most only those known to the inventor. See also MPEP § 2164.08(a). Further, it is unclear if 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph, is being invoked.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1 – 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (EP569133A2).

10. **Regarding independent claim 1**, Anderson et al. teach that *whether 2-D or 3-D in nature, blocks of cells may be easily copied and cut (i.e., moved) using drag-and-drop editing techniques of the present embodiment. As shown in Fig. 4G for a 2-D block, for example, a method for copying a block of cells includes (1) selecting a source block by dragging a range of cells (e.g., mouse button-down events coupled with mouse*

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movement across the range; close selection with a button-up event), (2) dragging the block (e.g., click within block. followed by repeated mouse button-down events), and (3) dropping the block (e.g., mouse button-up event at desired target location). In a similar fashion, 3-D blocks may be dragged and dropped. In typical cut and copy operations, relative and absolute cell addressing is employed, as is known in the art (see e.g., Using 1-2-3). According to the present embodiment, however a "model copy" technique for copying blocks is also provided. Model copying, illustrated in Figs. 4H-J, is useful when the user is copying a block that contains absolute references to cells within the copied block. In Fig. 4H, a small spread model 496 is shown which contains a formula to figure the monthly payment for a 30-year loan at different interest rates; a reference to the loan amount was entered as absolute so that when the formula is copied, it continues to refer to ce11 B1. The user may want to calculate (at the same time) monthly payments for different loan amounts and, thus, might copy the model, with the loan amount changed (shown in Fig. 4I as spread 497). However, in this approach the absolute reference still refers to row 1; to correct this, the user would typically manually edit each formula to refer to 86 instead of B1. With model copying of the present embodiment enabled (e.g., by default or through a user dialog), however the problem is solved. In particular, absolute references adjust to the new location of the referenced cell, as shown by spread 498 in Fig. 4J; however, absolute references remain absolute to make future copies absolute. For instance, should the user make more copies of the formula, the reference to cell 86 is still absolute. In this manner, model copying of the present embodiment saves the user time-consuming and error-prone editing of formulas

(page 8, lines 4 – 26), which provide for **selecting a source cell range to cut and paste or to copy and paste into a destination cell range; storing (403) a working buffer the content of each cell that belongs to said source cell range; clearing the content of each cell that belongs to a source cell range to cut; for each cell stored in the working buffer: if the content of the stored cell comprises one or a plurality of absolute references pointing to a cell or a cell range belonging to the source cell range (405, 406); determining for each of said cells or cell ranges pointed by an absolute reference and belonging to the source cell range, a relative position within the source cell range; determining for each of said relative position within the source cell range, a corresponding absolute reference within the destination cell range; replacing (407) within the stored cell, each absolute reference pointing to a cell or a cell range belonging to the source cell range by the corresponding absolute reference within the destination cell range; copying (408) the content of each cell stored in the buffer to corresponding cells within the destination cell range, except the working buffer.** Anderson et al. do not explicitly teach **the working buffer**; however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to use and/or modify the invention of Anderson et al. to provide for **a working buffer**. The skilled artisan would be motivated to implement one of the known ways of copying and pasting, which employs a clipboard that is a type of **working buffer**, so that the users could continue pasting the selected range at other destinations from the clipboard.

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8. **Regarding independent claims 2 and 3**, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claim 1, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (703) 305-4502. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 6:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (305) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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